Copy for O. i/c Special Branch

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE
S. B. REGISTRY
S. B. D. 7100

"A"
Central

Misc. No. 556/35.

Nov. 20, 35.

Suspected Suicide of S.M. Gordcharoff

At 12.45 p.m., 20-11-35, a telephone message was received from the Metropole Hotel, reporting that a man was shot in that Hotel.

D.I. Wardrop, D.S. Logan and C.D.C. 44 attended and on arrival were taken to Room 614 situated on the 6th floor of the East side of the hotel, overlooking a waste piece of ground.

Examination of the room revealed deceased dressed in his shoes, trousers, a sweater, shirt, collar and tie, lying on his left side, with his legs outstretched, the right resting on top of the left and both bent forward from the hips at an angle of nearly 45°. Deceased's hands were both extended forward and downward over his stomach. Deceased's head was lying in a pool of blood which extended approximately 3'6" in diameter. A bullet wound was apparent to the top of his right temple and on the left side of his head could be seen a wound which had the appearance of having been caused by the exit of the bullet. A .45 Cal. Colt Auto pistol, 1911 U.S. Army model, N: 454277, was lying on the floor, beside the back of deceased's knees, with the butt pointing towards deceased's trunk and the muzzle pointing towards his feet. The pistol which showed evidence of having been recently fired was empty. A spent cartridge shell [illegible] deceased is not known to have been connected with any political [illegible]

S2,
Please see and pass to Registry to file. I presume there is no reason to suspect that deceased was mixed up in politics.
JHG
NOV. 1935
Reg. Passed to file

Cal. was however found lying on the floor 6" from the bathroom door in the North-East corner, distant from the body about 8 feet, and on top of the dressing table in the room, a magazine containing 6 rounds of .45 Cal. ammunition was found. The magazine fitted the pistol aforesaid. Both pistol and magazine was examined by D.S.I. Dickson but no finger prints were found. Photographs of scene were taken by P.P.B. Immediately above the chest of drawers, about 4'6" from the floor on the West side of the room, could be seen a hole where the bullet entered the wall after passing through deceased's head. The direction of the hole indicated that deceased either sat or knelt on the floor of the room immediately in front of the dressing table mirror and in that positio fired the fatal shot. The bullet was extracted from the wall by D.S.I. Tilton and together with the pistol, spen cartridge shell, magazine, and 43 rounds of loose ammunition found in deceased's suitcase in the room, was forwarded to the Arms Identification Section for examina tion. (Further enquiries concerning the pistol will be made at the U.S.A. Military Authorities).

Dr. W.R. Johnston of the P.H.D. examined the body at 2.25 p.m. same date, and estimated that death had taken place several hours previously, also that the pistol which discharged the fatal shot had [illegible]

at very close range to deceased's head. A search of the room failed to reveal any document or thing left by deceased that would indicate the reason for his death. There is no suspicion of foul play. Enquiries revealed that deceased, Serge M. Goncharoff (Russian), age 27, residing with his father and several brothers at 302 Route Cardinal Mercier, where the former operates a small chocolate factory, engaged Room 614 of the Metropole Hotel, on the afternoon of 18-11-35. As far as can be ascertained deceased was visited in the hotel only by a Russian named A. Bragin at about 10.30 a.m. 19-11-35, and by his brother Nick Goncharoff on the afternoon of 19-11-35. Bragin, who was located by P.S. Beloshenko stated that he visited deceased on 19-11-35, in the Metropole Hotel at the latter's request when deceased told him that he was going to the interior to push sales on his father's products but did not give any indication of his intention to commit suicide.

At 7.05 p.m. 19-11-35, deceased ordered the Room Boy No. 12 Huang Woo Li (黃鶴連) 16 Pah Loh Fong, Broadway, to fetch him some tea and sandwiches. This the Boy did. At 8.30 p.m. 19-11-35, coolie No. 66 Wong Ah Tsai (王阿載) 277 Tsing Yang Li, East Yohang Road, entered the room to remove the tea tray but was told by deceased not to do so and not to come back till the

following morning. The coolie thereupon left the room. At that time deceased appeared normal. Deceased was not again seen to leave the hotel.

At 10.30 a.m. 20-11-35, Nick Goncharoff, deceased's brother, telephoned to the deceased's room but got no reply. At noon he telephoned again as he was surprized that deceased did not come home for tiffin as he had promised to do and on failing to get a reply went to the Metropole Hotel where on failing to get a reply to his knock on the door, he then called the hotel reception clerk Mr. N.G. Athanassiano (Greek) who unlocked the door of Room 614 with the master key (it should be explained that the lock, Gibbons, was double locked and that this can only be done from the inside, so that as it is impossible to leave the room except by the door, it must have been double locked by deceased before he committed suicide) whereupon deceased was found as described above, and Central Police Station informed.

Deceased's brother Mr. Nick Goncharoff, when questioned by the undersigned stated that as far as he knew, deceased had no motive for committing suicide, he was not known to have any love or financial troubles. It was learned however that deceased told his brother [illegible] 18-11-35, that he intended to fly to [illegible] with a friend when deceased's brother [illegible]

Hirsch (German), member of S.M.C. (Specials). The nature of the business which was taking him to Chengtu was not communicated to him by deceased, who stated that he preferred not to divulge particulars of same. Deceased's brother stated that he believed Hirsch was employed at Isaaca Motors, 368 Wei Hai Wei Road.

While detectives were enquiring into this case in Room 614 aforesaid, one who gave his name as Gottlieb, Tel. No. 43282(Willie's Theatre) telephoned asking for deceased.

D.S. Beloshenko who interviewed deceased's parents at 302 R. Cardinal Mercier ascertained that prior to 1930 deceased was employed by Hall & Holtz in Shanghai. In 1930 he was transferred to Tientsin (Hall & Holtz) where he remained till 1934 (August) when he joined his family in Japan where he remained till when he went to Harbin in charge of his father's shop there. In April 1935, he joined his family in Taingtao where they had removed from Japan. Deceased remained in Taingtao till Oct. 1st 1935, when he came to Shanghai after which he lived with his family. He was always quiet in his habits and was not known to be mixed in any shady or political dealings. His family were not able to throw any light on the origin of the pistol but opined that he probably acquired it from some U.S. Naval or Military people with whom he was

acquainted in Tsingtao (identity unknown). When leaving home on 18-11-35, he stated that he was going to the interior with Mr. Max Hirsch, but Mr. Hirsch when interviewed by [illegible]. Beloshenko stated that he was on very friendly terms with deceased but had never discussed with the latter any plans for a journey to the interior, and expressed the opinion that deceased, knowing that his family were aware of his friendship with the latter, used his name in order to persuade them to allow him to leave home. Mr. Hirsch produced a letter bearing Shanghai post mark dated 19-11-35, written by deceased on Metropole Hotel notepaper, copy as follows:-

"Dear Max,

I am very sory, that I could not get in touch with you by Telegram. This explains why I am writing to you these few lines. I am leaving this town for some time. Before ~~living~~ leaving I have a big request to you, that is, I would be very, very much obliged to you if you would do everything for my brother. I can fully assure you that he is absolutely honest & dependable man. I am sure that I will not cause you any trouble by my sudden departure. With best regards & wishes.

Sincerely yours

Sergi "

1/Sheet No. 7.

The following is a list of the effects belonging to deceased found in Room 614, viz:-

One suitcase containing change of clothing, one overcoat, one hat, catalogue of Japanese goods, one bag of Overland patent bottle stoppers, 1 cigarette case, one wallet containing $11.00 in notes, one empty wallet, one note book with the names C.L. Wong, Chengtu 10-11 and W.L. Loo 12-1, 15th written therein and particulars of price of tickets for journey to Chengtu, Hotel expenses, etc. Slip of paper bearing name of China Travel Service with certain particulars of times and departures Chengtu-Chungking-Hankow. One Japanese Certificate of Identity No. 127 issued 14-3-1931 bearing a German visa dated 14-3-31. One cheque book on The Bank of Chosen and one cheque book on the Nederlandsch Indische Handelsbank N.V.

While there is nothing to suggest that deceased was connected with any political party, a copy of this report has been forwarded to O. i/c Special Branch, and all seized documents shown to D.S. Cheremshansky.

At 6.30 p.m. 20-11-35, Mr. W. Gottlieb, 10 Larton Terrace, F.C. was interviewed in this Station by D.S. Beloshenko, when he stated that he knew deceased a period of 3 years. Mr. Gottlieb who is connected with China Sound News recently asked deceased if he knew of any one who might be willing to invest money in his

business. Deceased stated that he knew of someone but refused to divulge his name. On the forenoon of 19-11-35, Gottlieb called on deceased in the Metropole Hotel by appointment when they discussed the matter of the loan but did not arrive at any definite agreement on the matter. Deceased explained the reason for his living in the hotel by saying that he had quarrelled with his parents. It should be mentioned that on 16-11-35, deceased borrowed $80.00 from his father ostensibly to cover part of the expenses for his proposed trip. The body of deceased has been removed to the Public Mortuary pending inquest. Deceased's brother will identify and claim the body.

Enquiries in the Metropole Hotel failed to locate any person who heard the report of the pistol being fired.

W Logan
D.S. 265.
D.S. Beloshenko.
C.D.C. 44.

Det. Det. i/c.

D. D. O. MAR.

O. i/c Special Branch.